

## **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

DATE: May 30, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:03 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:29 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **ATTENDING MEMBERS**

Greg Bowes, Chair

Rozelle Boyd

James Bradford

Susie Day

Joanne Sanders

#### **ABSENT**

Patrice Abdullah

Ginny Cain

### **AGENDA**

PROPOSAL NO. 239, 2006 - recognizes Indianapolis as a city committed to inclusion and a member of the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities

"Do Pass"

Vote: 4-1

## **Community Affairs Committee**

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, May 30, 2006. Chair Greg Bowes called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with the following members present: Rozelle Boyd, James Bradford, Susie Day, and Joanne Sanders. Absent were Patrice Abdullaah and Ginny Cain.

**PROPOSAL NO. 239, 2006** - recognizes Indianapolis as a city committed to inclusion and a member of the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities

Councillor Nytes stated that, along with herself, Councillor Sanders and Councillor Keller are also sponsors of Proposal No. 239, 2006. She stated that this proposal is a product of some efforts that are being promoted through the National League of Cities (NLC). This proposal is something that many have had in mind to do for some time because they have found it difficult for some in the community to participate. Councillor Nytes stated that cities are becoming more complicated and diverse, and there needs to be more of a concerted effort and welcoming attitude to make sure everyone finds that Indianapolis is a welcoming city and one that wants all citizens to become active participants. She also stated that the President of the NLC, Jim Hunt, has formalized this thinking into a program where cities would recognize their commitment to inclusion and go on the record to say that Indianapolis is going to work to raise their consciousness to help any and everyone. Councillor Nytes stated that NLC has a program which encourages cities to pass resolutions similar to this one. Over 30 cities have adopted an ordinance to make their cities inclusive.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Bradford arrived at 5:07 pm}

Councillor Boyd stated that it is important that Indianapolis continues the tradition of welcoming anyone that desires to reside here. He also stated that former Mayors William Hudnut and Richard Lugar were presidents to the NLC during their tenure. He said that the distinguishing characteristics regarding this proposal are for a city to say out loud that it is inclusive and he is committed to that. Councillor Boyd stated that he is in support and is looking forward to Indianapolis signing onto this initiative.

Councillor Sanders stated that when she chose to live in Indianapolis, she believed that this is how she perceived the City to be. There are laws that define inclusion and consequences within those laws relative to any violation that may occur, but at the same time, the city needs to reiterate what their purpose is as a community and how they are, in fact, made up of all sorts of different races, ethnicity, religious and other backgrounds. She stated that the proposal is simply the City to make a statement that they are inclusive, and therefore join others that have passed similar resolutions.

Councillor Bradford stated that he agrees that Indianapolis is inclusive, but just does not understand how many times this subject can be discussed, especially when the Human Rights Ordinance was passed. He stated that the public wants sidewalks, potholes resurfaced, and public safety issues resolved instead of putting up a sign that says Indianapolis is an Inclusive City. Councillor Bradford stated that he does not support this proposal.

Councillor Day stated that she agrees with Councillor Bradford, but will support the proposal in committee. She is not sure, however, how she will vote when Council is in full session.

Councillor Nytes stated that this proposal is not intended to bypass fixing sidewalks, pot holes, or undermining public safety, but councillors need to be aware that there is more that needs to be done.

Chair Bowes stated that he agrees somewhat with Councillor Bradford that simply saying Indianapolis is inclusive is not enough, and that the intent of this ordinance is a reminder that there is a need to follow through with action. He also stated that there is more to do, and since the Council is the policy voices for the community, they need to continue to seek other opportunities to include more people. Chair Bowes stated that this issue does not just encourage the city to be more sensitive to minorities or disabled individuals, but to also be more sensitive to anyone that has a voice in their governing community. The proposal is a good idea, but somewhat in agreement with Councillor Bradford, more action needs to be taken.

Councillor Boyd stated that if the City was to wait until success has been achieved on everything before a new initiative begins, then those new initiatives will never get started. Councillor Boyd stated that this action is worth taking.

Councillor Sanders moved, seconded by Councillor Boyd, to send Proposal No. 239, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote, with Councillor Bradford casting the negative vote.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bowes, Chair  
Community Affairs Committee

GB/lw